



Office of the Mayor

NEWS RELEASE

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3rd Annual Halina Poetry Prize Winners Announced

South Bend, IN: Dr. Dave Stefancic, Chair of the Halina Poetry Prize Committee, announced the winners of the third annual Halina Poetry Prize contest at the May 14 Common Council Meeting. The Halina Poetry Prize, a poetry contest for high school students, was designed to showcase area students' literary talent and to honor South Bend's Sister City, Czestochowa, Poland. This year's winners are:

Halina Prize David Tidmarsh*, Grade 11, Adams H. S.

Honorable Mentions Katharine Yugo, Grade 11, Adams H.S.

Mark Fay, Grade 10, Clay H.S.

*(*Note: David Tidmarsh also received a 2006 Halina Honorable Mention for the 9-10 Grade Division.)*

Teachers..... Adams High School – Ann Raymer

Clay High School – Celeste Hilliard

“South Bend is pleased to celebrate the 15th anniversary of our Sister City relationship with Czestochowa,” stated Mayor Luecke. “Through this contest we help build recognition of our Sister City, Czestochowa and its great history and culture. As importantly, the Halina Poetry Prize gives high school students from public, parochial and private schools an opportunity to express themselves and be recognized for their outstanding skills,” said Mayor Luecke. “We are so proud of the efforts our local students have made and we are grateful to their teachers for their guidance and support.”

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This year, over 150 entries were received from students representing six South Bend high schools including Adams, Clay, Riley, Washington, Naftali Riff Yeshiva, and Trinity School at Greenlawn. “We were very pleased with the response from our local students,” noted Dr. Stefancic, “as well as the depth and breadth of the topics they selected.”

Committee members anonymously judged the entries and selected the Halina Poetry Prize winner and two Honorable Mentions. The Halina Poetry Prize winner received \$200 and Honorable Mention Award winners received \$50 each. The poems will be published in the 2007 Halina Poetry Prize Chapbook, as well as a retrospective of previous years’ winners. New this year was the participation of students from St. Mary’s College. Dr. Stefancic acknowledged the assistance of Max Westler, St. Mary’s College and his poetry students who reviewed all of the poems submitted and shared their expertise in poetic analysis.

The Halina Poetry Prize was named in honor of Halina Poswiatowska who was born in Częstochowa on May 9, 1935. She wrote poetry from a very young age and published three volumes before her untimely death at the age of 32. Her poetry is still highly regarded in Poland. It is through international relations like these that cities can build important ties that link individuals across thousands of miles, and through better understanding, help us to peacefully embrace our differences.

The Halina Poetry Prize Committee includes Chairman, Dr. Dave Stefancic, St. Mary’s College; Conrad Damian, Washington High School; Patricia Falvey, Holy Cross College; Phyllis Moore-Whitesell, IUSB English Dept., and Dr. Gabrielle Robinson, IUSB.

The fourth annual Halina Poetry Prize contest will be launched at the beginning of 2008. The City of South Bend and the Halina Poetry Prize Committee would like to thank area high schools for their participation and in particular the English teachers who encouraged and facilitated student contributions.

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